Vote No. 517

October 26, 1995, 11:55 a.m. Page S-15831 Temp. Record

BALANCED BUDGET RECONCILIATION/Tax Deferral & Imported Property

SUBJECT: Balanced Budget Reconciliation Act of 1995 . . . S. 1357. Exon motion to waive the Budget Act for the consideration of the Dorgan amendment No. 2977.

ACTION: MOTION REJECTED, 47-52

SYNOPSIS: As reported, S. 1357, the Balanced Budget Reconciliation Act of 1995, will result in a balanced budget in seven years, as scored by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO). The bill will also provide a \$245 billion middle-class tax cut, \$141.4 billion of which will be to provide a \$500 per child tax credit.

The Dorgan amendment would amend the current-law deferral for United States shareholders on income from controlled foreign corporations by eliminating the deferral for income that is attributable to property imported into the United States.

Debate on a first-degree amendment to a reconciliation bill is limited to 2 hours. By unanimous consent, debate was further limited on the Dorgan amendment. Following debate, Senator Domenici raised the point of order that the Dorgan amendment contained non-germane material and thus violated the Budget Act. Senator Exon then moved to waive the Budget Act for the consideration of the Dorgan amendment.

NOTE: A three-fifths majority (60) vote is required to waive the Budget Act. Following the failure of the motion to waive, the point of order was upheld and the amendment thus fell.

Those favoring the motion to waive contended:

Under current law, corporations can defer taxes on income if they invest that income overseas. When the money is repatriated it is taxed. In practice, this right to defer is being used to export American jobs. Companies shut down their domestic factories to build factories overseas and they then import the products from those factories into the United States for sale. The money is never repatriated, so the deferred taxes are never paid on the income that is used to build those overseas factories. We may not be able to stop companies from exporting jobs, but we can stop giving them tax deferrals to build overseas factories that make products to sell

(See other side)

YEAS (47)			NAYS (52)			NOT VOTING (0)	
Republicans	Democrats (44 or 96%)		Republicans (50 or 94%)		Democrats (2 or 4%)	Republicans Democrats	
(3 or 6%)						(0)	(0)
Cohen Snowe Stevens	Akaka Biden Bingaman Boxer Bradley Breaux Bryan Bumpers Byrd Conrad Daschle Dodd Dorgan Exon Feingold Feinstein Ford Glenn Graham Harkin Heflin Hollings	Inouye Johnston Kennedy Kerrey Kerry Kohl Lautenberg Leahy Levin Lieberman Mikulski Moseley-Braun Murray Nunn Pell Pryor Reid Robb Rockefeller Sarbanes Simon Wellstone	Abraham Ashcroft Bennett Bond Brown Burns Campbell Chafee Coats Cochran Coverdell Craig D'Amato DeWine Domenici Faircloth Frist Gorton Gramm Grams Grassley Gregg Hatch Hatfield	Helms Hutchison Inhofe Jeffords Kassebaum Kempthorne Kyl Lott Lugar Mack McCain McConnell Murkowski Nickles Pressler Roth Santorum Shelby Simpson Smith Specter Thomas Thompson Thurmond Warner	Baucus Moynihan	EXPLANAT 1—Official I 2—Necessar 3—Illness 4—Other SYMBOLS: AY—Annou AN—Annou PY—Paired PN—Paired	ily Absent Inced Yea Inced Nay Yea

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in the United States. We urge our colleagues to vote for American jobs by voting in favor of the Dorgan amendment.

Those opposing the motion to waive contended:

We have no sympathy for companies that shut down domestic factories, build foreign factories, and then ship the products from those foreign factories to the United States. However, we note that the Dorgan amendment would be incredibly difficult to enforce. For example, how would we determine the portion of a controlled foreign corporation's income that was attributable to products sold in the United States if it sold dozens of products worldwide, and if its assets were not solely from deferred income? This area of trade policy is extremely complex. We want to encourage American businesses to compete in foreign markets, but we do not want them to become in effect foreign competitors that steal American jobs. This reconciliation bill purposely avoids this issue and other issues relating to taxes and foreign trade in order to give the Finance Committee time to hold hearings on how best to resolve problems in this area. The Chairman of the Committee has committed to holding those hearings. Rather than passing an unenforceable solution to a very real problem, we urge our colleagues to vote against this amendment and to give the Finance Committee time to devise a workable solution.